

CHAPTER 34

BHUKTI PRADHÁNA

Bhukti means a particular administrative area akin to a district in India or a county in Britain. The Ānanda Mārga Pracāraka Saṁgha (AMPS) secretary of such a *bhukti* will be known as a *bhukti pradhāna*. [*Pradhāna* means "head" or "principal person".]

Election of *Bhukti Pradhāna*

The *sadvipras* (those who are well-established in Sixteen Points*) of a *bhukti* must elect one *bhukti pradhāna* from among themselves. The *bhukti pradhāna* may or may not be an *ācārya/ā* or a *tātvika*, but must be an educated family person. They will hold this post for three years, after which a fresh election will be held.

The *Bhukti* Committee

The *Bhukti* General Committee will be constituted of representatives elected by the *sadvipras* from among

* See *Caryācarya Part 2*. —Trans.

themselves. It will consist of a maximum of twenty-five and a minimum of fifteen members. With the consent of 80 per cent of the members, the number of members may be raised above twenty-five.

The *bhukti pradhāna* will be the chairperson of the *Bhukti* General Committee. He/she will also form a *Bhukti* Executive Committee consisting of his/her chosen members. The number of members of the *Bhukti* Executive Committee will be determined at the discretion of the *bhukti pradhāna*. A maximum of three members of the *Bhukti* Executive Committee may be *sadvipras* who are not members of the *Bhukti* General Committee; the rest must be members of the *Bhukti* General Committee.

Duties and Responsibilities of *Bhukti Pradhāna*

In general, the *bhukti pradhāna* is responsible for all items of the ISMUB Department — inspection, seminars, movements, utilization and boards — at the district level. They must also maintain all records of birth, *jātakarma*, marriage, social functions, *nārāyaṇa sevā*, divorce, death, *shrāddha* and *diikṣādāna*.

In addition, the *bhukti pradhāna* should settle petty civil and criminal disputes, authorizing both the prosecution and defence to engage their pleaders. (Any *sadvipra* well versed in *Caryācarya* may be a pleader for the purpose.)

They are to maintain the sanctity of all *jágrtis*, *dhvajās* [flags], *pratiikas* and *pratikrtis* [photos of Marga Guru] with the help of the *jágrti* secretary and others.

They must maintain the social solidarity of the *bhukti* by never allowing the individual interest of any person to go against the collective interest, and they may take disciplinary steps against a person (in consultation with their Bhukti Executive Committee) for deviating from the path of Sixteen Points.

They must help with cash, kind, labour and other physical and intellectual power in materializing the different public welfare plans and programmes of Ananda Marga. The *bhukti pradhána* will maintain proper accounts of all income and expenditure of his/her *bhukti*.

The *purodhá pramukha* may increase or decrease the duties or responsibilities of the *bhukti pradhána* whenever so required with or without consultation of the Central Purodhá Board.

CHAPTER 35

SAMÁJAMITRAM, SMÁRTTA, JIVAMITRAM AND DHARMAMITRAM

The *bhukti pradhána* of any particular sector within whose jurisdiction there is the largest number of A-class Ánanda Marga Pracárika Saṁgha (AMPS) committees (see "Formation of Boards"), will be known as the *samájamitram* [friend of society] of that sector for that particular half-year (1st January to Vaeshákhii Púrúimá / Vaeshákhii Púrúimá to 1st January). They (*samájamitrams*) will be allowed to use the word *samájamitram* as a prefix to their names until another person of the same sector acquires this respectable rank. A *bhukti pradhána* retaining the status of *samájamitram* continuously for two years (four half-years) can permanently prefix the title to his/her name (but this will not be hereditary). A permanent *samájamitram* can no longer hold the post of *bhukti pradhána*.

If a *bhukti pradhána* is an *ácarya/á*, he/she will use the word *smárta* ["one who has proved one's social worthiness"] and not *samájamitram*.

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Of the nine *samājamitrams*, the one having the largest number of A-class committees in the world will be known as *jīvamitram* [friend of living beings]. A *bhukti pradhāna* retaining the status of *jīvamitram* continuously for two years (four half-years) will permanently prefix the title to his/her name (but this will not be hereditary). A permanent *jīvamitram* can no longer hold the post of *bhukti pradhāna*.

If a *bhukti pradhāna* is a *grhii* [householder] *ācārya/ā*, he or she will use the word *dharmamitram* and not *jīvamitram*.

If the *samājamitram*, *smārtta*, *jīvamitram* and *dharmamitram* are males, it is advisable that they do not shave, although this is not compulsory.

The *samājamitram* and *jīvamitram* will deserve the same respect in the society as an *ācārya/ā*. For this reason, even if it may seem necessary, no one will be entitled to take any social disciplinary action against them except a *purodhā*.

CHAPTER 36

FORMATION OF BOARDS

All the departments and sections of Ānanda Mārga Pracāraka Saṁgha (AMPS) have boards from central level to village level to materialize their respective programmes. The total number of boards at the village level is the same as at central level.

The minimum number of members on a board will be three, and the maximum, seven. The members may or may not be highly educated, but must have a developed sense of responsibility. A person cannot be a member of more than one board.

A-Class and B-Class Committees

Committees at the various levels which have formed boards corresponding to all the departments and sections of AMPS will be declared A-class committees. Committees which have formed less than the total number of boards will be declared B-class committees.

It will be the duty of the structural workers concerned, and the ISMUB Secretary, to elevate the status of B-class committees to that of A-class committees with the help of all *sadvipras*.